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ENG 3504-001: Film and Literature Animating Literature: Moving from fiction to Animated Film

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3504-001

English 3504 Section 001, Film and Literature
Animating Literature: Moving from Fiction to Animated Film

Dr. Robin L. Murray

Fall 2012: TR 3:30-5:30

Office: CH 3351

1:45-3:30

Phone: 549-0199 before 10

Office Hours: TR Office Hours: T/R 1:00-3:00 & by appointment

Course Description:

In *Animation and America*, Paul Wells draws on Gene Youngblood's concept of "expanded cinema" and suggests, "art-works transcend ... paradigm[s] by using their aesthetic specificity to create symbolic interpretations of more complex and contradictory aspects of human experience." This section of 3504 will explore the boundaries of fiction, graphic novels, animation, and adaptation as interpretive "artworks" in multiple genres of film and literature. (Group 5)

Texts:

Bordwell and Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*, 9th edition.

Bambi (online)

Alice in Sunderland

The Arabian Nights

Folk and Fairy Tales

Tank Girl Apocalypse

That's All Folks?: Ecocritical Readings of American Animated Features

Understanding Comics

Watchmen

Course Requirements:

1. **Entrance Card:** Once a week you will complete an **entrance card** answering a question about the film(s) screened and/or text read for that class. More later.
2. **Midterm:** This exam will provide an opportunity to internalize material all students read for class and to carefully read the first films in the class.
3. **Group Presentations:** Members of four different groups will each read selections from *The Arabian Nights* and *Folk and Fairy Tales* and be responsible for teaching it to the rest of the class (with my help). You are welcome to connect the readings to films screened for class (or on your own).
4. **Final Exam:** This exam will not be cumulative. It will provide an opportunity to internalize material read for class as a group and as a class from Midterm forward and carefully to read the last films in the class.
5. **Two Papers:** You will also write **two papers**, one due at midterm and one due by the final class session:
 - The first paper will give you the opportunity to review one of the films on the course calendar through a blog entry or approximately 1000 words.
 - The second paper will allow you to look beyond films screened for class to examine a particular genre of the animated film in a paper of approximately 2000 words.
 - You will also provide a Wiki page for your genre and at least two representative films.

6. **Film Log:** This Log will offer a place for you to write brief responses to the films we watch for class. These should be informal and approximately 150 words. Respond to them in relation to Film Narrative and Style or our class theme (women authors/auteurs).

Grades: Grades will be determined as follows for a total of 100%:

Entrance Cards and Participation-----	20%
Midterm-----	10%
Group Teaching/Presentation-----	10%
Final Exam-----	20%
Paper I-----	10 %
Final Paper-----	20%
Film Log-----	10%

Grading of Entrance Cards, Presentations, and Papers:

Entrance Card grades will be based on analytical complexity. Each will be worth twenty points

Paper grades will be based on the following areas: Audience awareness, organization, development, sentence structure, word choice, grammar/usage/mechanics. The first three areas will be weighted more heavily than the second three (60% vs. 40%). I will also distribute the English Department's grade analysis in class and a paper rubric in class.

Presentations will be evaluated according to a rubric I will distribute in class. Groups should also turn in any class handouts or visuals.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Plagiarism: The English Department states, "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' -- has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of "F" in the course."

Electronic Writing Portfolio: This class is a writing intensive class, so you may submit your paper as a writing portfolio sample, following the instructions on the CASL Website. Submissions must be made during the course of the class to receive my approval. Please note that the Writing Center is available for help with all writing assignments, as well. Take advantage of this free service.

Writing Center: Ambitious students can also seek help from the Writing Center. Call for an appointment (581-5920) or visit ((CH3110) at any point in the writing process, from brainstorming, planning and drafting, to final editing. Bring your assignment sheet and any written work and/or sources with you. The Writing Center is open Monday-Thursday, 9-3 and 6-9, and Friday from 9-1.

Please Note: Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should provide each of their English department professors with the yellow form, "Application for English department Approval to Student Teach." These are available on a rack outside the office of Dr. Donna Binns (CH 3851).

Also Note: You must complete all major assignments to complete this course.

Fall 2012
Tentative Calendar, Subject to Change

August

- 21 Introduction to the course and each other. Difference between reading film and literature. *Film Art* introduction to (review of) narrative and style—film as a system. Read *Bambi* and animation section in chapter 10, *Film Art* for next week and prepare for entrance card.
- Film clips from animated shorts, *Bambi* and *Mr. Bug Goes to Town*
- 23 Film Screening: Animated Shorts from a variety of Studios
- 28 **Entrance Card** review of *Bambi* and *Film Art* chapter 10. Discuss differences in animated shorts from different studios. Apply what learned from reading to the films. Read sections of chapter 2, *That's All Folks?* together as points of reference. Watch film clips from *Bambi* and compare to the novel. Introduce the graphic novel *Alice in Sunderland*. Read sections of *Alice in Sunderland* for next week by group and prepare for entrance card.
- 30 Film Screening: *Mr. Bug Goes to Town*

September

- 4 **Entrance Card. Group presentations of *Alice in Sunderland* sections.** What did you learn about Lewis Carroll, comics, illustrations, the novel *Alice in Wonderland* and the parameters of the graphic “novel”? Read sections from *The Arabian Nights* by group and prepare for entrance card.
- 6 Film Screening: Disney's *Alice in Wonderland*
- 11 **Entrance Card. Group presentations of *The Arabian Nights* sections.** Discuss the Disney studio and its successful movement from animated shorts to features, its dominance of animation, and its ideological differences from other studios, including the Fleischer Brothers and UPA. Read chapter 4, *That's All Folks?* and selections from *Folk and Fairy Tales* for next week and prepare for entrance card.
- 13 Film Screening: UPA's *1001 Arabian Nights*
- 18 **Entrance Card.** Discuss the film, *1001 Arabian Nights* as an adaptation of the tales in *The Arabian Nights* text. Discuss fairy tales from text and live action/animation and its history. Read chapter 5, *That's All Folks?* and find graphic representations of the various monsters in *Mad Monster Party?*: Frankenstein, Dracula, Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde, the werewolf, The invisible man, the creature from the black lagoon, the hunchback of Notre Dame, and the mummy and prepare for entrance card.
- 20 Film Screening: Disney's *Enchanted*

- 25 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Enchanted* in relation to fairy tales. Present your graphic representations of monsters and discuss what they might mean. Discuss Rankin Bass as a studio. View clips from Rankin/Bass cartoons, such as *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer*. Find an article about the Disney studio on jstore, read it and prepare for entrance card.

- 27 Film Screening: Rankin/Bass's *Mad Monster Party?*

October

- 2 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Mad Monster Party?* and the monster representations there in comparison with others you found. Discuss your chosen Disney article. View clips from Disney films from the 1960s and 70s. Prepare for Midterm.
- 4 Film Screening: Disney's *The Fox and the Hound*
- 9 **Midterm. Film Log due (first half) after midterm.** Find an article on *Stephen Spielberg* and prepare draft of paper I, film review blog for next week.
- 11 Film Screening: Amblin Entertainment (Spielberg)'s *Jurassic Park*
- 16 **Draft of Paper I, Film Review Blog due for peer review and conferences.** Discuss *Jurassic Park*, Spielberg, Amblin Entertainment, and DreamWorks, with clips to support discussion. Revise Paper I and read *Understanding Comics* for next week and prepare for entrance card. Note: Bring in *Tank Girl Apocalypse* to class next week.
- 18 Film Screening: DreamWorks Animation's *Over the Hedge*
- 23 **Paper I due. Entrance Card.** Discuss *Understanding Comics*. Practice reading panels in *Tank Girl Apocalypse*. Read *Tank Girl Apocalypse* for next week and prepare for entrance card.
- 25 Film Screening: Pixar's *WALL-E*
- 30 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Tank Girl Apocalypse* in relation to *WALL-E* and *Understanding Comics*. Highlight interaction between Disney and Pixar in the film (see chapter 9, *That's All Folks?*). Present panels from the graphic novel, highlighting key reading points that differ from novels and film. Discuss EVFF. Begin reading *Watchmen* for next week and prepare for entrance card.

November

- 1 Film Screening: EVFF Film, *Bonnie and Clyde*
- 6 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Bonnie and Clyde* in relation to *Watchmen* (so far). Introduce Paper II, Genre Analysis and Wiki Page. Finish reading *Watchmen* for next week and prepare for entrance card.

- 8 Film Screening: *Watchmen*
- 13 **Entrance Card.** Discuss approaches to *Watchmen* and read panels as groups/individuals. Discuss difference between graphic novel and adaptation. Sign up and practice wiki pages. Complete a draft of paper II and Wiki for the Tuesday after break.
- 15 Film Screening: *Avatar*
- 19-23 Thanksgiving Break: No School!
- 27 **Draft of Paper II and Wiki due for peer review and conferences.** Read selections in *The Arabian Nights* for next time and prepare for entrance card. Revision of Paper II and Wiki due next week.
- 29 Film Screening: *Sita Sings the Blues*

December

- 4 **Entrance Card. Paper II and Wiki Pages due.** Discuss *Sita Sings the Blues* and *The Arabian Nights* segments. Watch selections from *The Adventures of Prince Akhmed*. Present Wiki pages.
- 6 Last Class Day—Film Screening: *Rango*? Class choice of animated films fr/ 2011/12.

Final Exam. Film Log Due after Final!